

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
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Agenda Item 7

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Twenty-third Session

### DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE USE OF ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATES BY COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND MIGRATION TO PAPERLESS CERTIFICATION

Comments of European Union, Kenya, Nicaragua and Philippines

#### European Union

The European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to thank the Netherlands and Australia for leading the work on revising the discussion paper and the project document on electronic certification.

Electronic certificates are likely to be increasingly used for providing assurances in international trade in food. It is therefore timely to develop harmonised Codex guidance on how to apply electronic certification.

The EUMS support the new work as proposed in the project document. The EUMS note that paragraphs 39 and 40 of the *Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and use of Generic Official Certificates (CAC/GL 38-2001)* provide some guidance on the use of electronic certificates. The proposed new guidance should build on those provisions and this could be mentioned in Section 6 of the project document.

#### Kenya

Kenya would like to thank the Netherlands and Australia for the work done to present the discussion paper. We do support this discussion paper on – “use of electronic certificates by competent authorities and migration to paperless certification” and support Codex to undertake this work by amending and complementing the Codex Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and use of Generic Official Certificates (CAC/GL 38-2001).

#### Nicaragua

##### Comentarios generales

CODEX Nicaragua agradece a los Países Bajos y a Australia por la elaboración del documento y por brindarnos la oportunidad de presentar comentarios respecto a la propuesta.

##### Comentarios específicos

Nicaragua apoya el desarrollo de la orientación del Codex en materia de certificación electrónica, enmendando y complementando las *Directrices del Codex para el diseño, elaboración, expedición y uso de certificados oficiales genéricos (CAC/GL 38-2001)*. No obstante, se considera necesario que en el desarrollo del documento se tomen en cuenta las asimetrías tecnológicas entre los países desarrollados y los países en desarrollo.

Se recomienda que el documento incluya como modalidad de trabajo, el establecimiento de un Gte, cuyos idiomas sean inglés y español, en el que participen países que no han adoptado la certificación electrónica y países que poseen experiencia y buenas prácticas en la implementación de certificación electrónica.

#### Philippines

The Philippines expresses appreciation to the working group in preparing the discussion paper.

We emphasize the need for standard guidance to assist member countries that are in the initial stages of adopting an electronic certification system.

The Philippines expresses full support for the development of guidance material for the implementation of paperless electronic certification by amending and complementing CAC/GL 38-2001, taking into account the existing national electronic certification system in place or in progress in several member countries for rational paperless and borderless certification scheme. It should consider taking a more in-depth assessment of the capability of developing countries to participate in the future use of e-certification and should provide guidance on the transition phase of using paper to paperless import and export clearance.